

Douglas, William O.  
Soc. U. O. 2 Points  
of Rebellion

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PROGRESS INDEX

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### Give Your Own George III

No matter what of the rhetoric of Thomas Jefferson is the warning from Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas that revolution may prove to be the only honorable alternative to oppression by the American Establishment. Nor is the theme more free-wheeling than other observations made by Justice Douglas on other subjects from time to time. But surely it is out of the ordinary for a justice to deliver himself of such a sentiment.

The justice is not trying to foment revolution; he is just warning the powers that be that, when grievances pile high and most elected spokesmen represent the Establishment, "violence may be the only effective response." Patrick Henry's warning may be recalled by his observation that whether the revolution proves violent or not may depend upon how wise the Establishment is.

✓ The justice is more accommodating than are some persons who write about the Establishment. He supplies at least a partial definition: It includes such elements as the Pentagon, the F.B.I., the Central Intelligence Agency, former

Presidents Truman and Johnson, and, more generally, government and corporate bureaucracy and racist practices by police, employers and educators.

It may be some sort of a commentary on the state of liberty in the land that, while nominees to the body of which Justice Douglas is a member are routinely hauled over the coals for indiscretion he is free to produce and sell stuff like that.

Justice Douglas invokes history to explain that, while George III was the symbol against which our Founding Fathers rebelled, "today's Establishment is the new George III."

In a free society it is his right and privilege to update and define George III as he sees fit. There are persons who share his view. Still, it is the privilege of others to update and define George III in the light of their convictions, without accepting the version offered by Justice William O. Douglas. Some of them may even think that he is a member of an Establishment more powerful and more autocratic than the elements which he lists.